NAM Summit

†2393. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issues raised by India in the NAM Summit held in Kaula Lumpur;

(b) the support extended by the member countries of NAM on the issues raised by India and the countries who opposed the issues;

(c) whether any issue pertaining to the Pak sponsored terrorist activities beign conducted in the country had especially been rasied by India in the Summit; and

(d) if so, the NAM's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The theme of the Summit was 'the continuing revitalization of NAM'. India stressed key issues of concern to the member-states, including multilateralism, combating terrorism, reform of the UN system, North-South Engagement and South-South Cooperation, as well as the need to promote the fundamental values of democracy, Human Rights and multiculturalism.

(b) India's views and suggestions received wide support. They are adequately reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration issued at the end of the Summit.

(c) and d) India is firmly of the view that NAM is not a forum for raising bilateral issues. However, the Prime Minister did respond to the unwarranted remarks by the President of Pakistan about Jammu and Kashmir and refferred to the terrorists who perpetrate violence against innocent civilians there. Pakistan obtained no support for its views from any other country at the Summit.

In the Conference, as a victim of terrorism, India stressed that NAM must take an unequivocal and firm line, avoiding double standards and not offering excuses for terrorism. India's viewpoint is reflected adequately in the NAM Communique.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.